

MARYLAND HEALTH AND WELLNESS COUNCIL

Minutes

October 17, 2018

4:00 PM

Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Conference Room L-1, 201 W. Preston Street

Council Members Present

Mary Backley
Angela Deal
Jennifer Eastman
Donna Gugel
Margaret Gwaltney
Roger Harrell
Jessica Kiel
Namisa Kramer
Rebecca Manno
Tracy Newsome
Rachel Pigott
Vivienne Rose
Stephen Shaul
Anne Williams
Liz Woodward

Council Members Attending by Phone

Lois Freeman
Darlene Ginn
Mychelle Farmer
Kathleen Keeffe Hough
Linda Kline
Julie Maneen
Seth Martin
Johnel Metcalf
Josie Ogaitis
Deanna Tran

Guests Present

Loretta Hoepfner
Stephanie Slowly

Council Members Absent

Donna Nordstrom
Jody Marshall
Joanne Roberts
Tammy Shelley
Suzanne Stringer
Aruna Nathan
James Ebeling

Staff Present

Marti Deacon
Kathleen Graham
Caroline Green
Mia Matthews
Sadie Peters
Kristi Pier
Nacole Smith
Sue Vaeth

I. Welcome

Chair Vivienne Rose opened the meeting at 5:00 and held roll call.

II. Presentation

Stephanie C. Slowly, Deputy Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities presented on the Impact of Leading with Equity to Reduce Health Disparities: Overview of the Maryland Office of Health Disparities. Ms. Slowly reviewed the Statutory Base, Mission and the Vision of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD).

- The key terms for Social Determinants of Health were reviewed including health equity. Health inequities are differences in health that result from systemic, avoidable and unjust social and economic policies and practices that create barriers to opportunity. They are sustained over time and generations and beyond the control of individuals. The differences between equality and equity were discussed.
- Ms. Slowly reviewed several key health indicators including, death rates, emergency department visits, low-birth weight, and diabetes, by race and ethnicity in Maryland demonstrating disparities in health. The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

selected asthma, diabetes and infant mortality to focus on. Current programs and initiatives include providing: education on health equity and social determinants of health; technical assistance to MDH programs, LHDs, and community-based organizations; and, assisting with strategic planning, program development and grant applications.

Discussion: Dr. Rose stated that the Council has committed to addressing health inequities and all Committees will address health inequities within their work plans. Dr. Rose indicated she would like to work with Ms. Slowly and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

III. Committee Updates

- Anne Williams, Chair, Health Disease and Stroke Committee, noted that at the last Committee meeting there was a discussion on access to care and social determinants of health. Ms. Williams asked for more clarification on what is the role of the Committees and how far the Committee's work extends. Dr. Rose noted that there may be variation by Committee and she suggested looking at model programs and looking for ways to take our work forward.
- Stephen Shaul and Jessica Kiel, Co-Chairs, Diabetes Committee, stated that the Committee has been working on the Diabetes Action Plan and will finalize their plan during today's Committee meeting.
- Sadie Peters, MDH, reported that the Arthritis Committee Chair was unable to attend. At their last Committee meeting there was extensive discussion and examined evidenced based programs. The Committee will use existing partners to disseminate information and conduct a scan. The Committee wants to build awareness with the health care providers and the public. Today they will continue fleshing out the action plan.
- Caroline Green, MDH, reported that the Fitness Committee is focusing on existing fitness programs. The Fitness Committee will promote Maryland Walking Day and a campaign to promote exercising 150 minutes a week. Suzanne Stringer stepped down as the Committee's Chair.

Discussion. Dr. Rose discussed the option of having a Co-Chair if a Committee wanted to have one. The Diabetes Committee used Co-Chairs from the start and were able to move on their work plan quickly. The staff will send out an email to see if anyone would like to be a Co-Chair.

- Dr. Rose noted that there are two Ad Hoc Committees, Health Equity and Legislative. She requested members to indicate their interest if they want to serve on either committee.

IV. Legislation

Kristi Pier, Director, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (CCDPC), reviewed the Council's past experiences in legislative actions. Ms. Pier reviewed the planned process of having a small Ad Hoc Committee review legislation and make a recommendation back to the Chair. The Committee members would spend approximately one hour per week during session. The review turnaround is usually 24 hours. A special training is planned for the Ad

Hoc Committee and includes an overview of the Maryland Legislative Session, how to read and review a bill, and taking a position on a bill.

V. Minutes

A motion was made to approve the August minutes and was seconded, passing unanimously.

VI. Close

Dr. Rose adjourned the meeting at 5:06 PM.